

Monday 4/23/07 - Duvall Library Board Minutes

Those present are listed below:

Duvall Library Board: Don Barden, Alan Butler, Paige Denison, Denny Redman and Karen Wallin

KCLS: Laura Boyes

River Current News: Carol Ladwig

The meeting was called to order by chair, Paige Denison at 6:05 P.M.

Previous minutes were read by Karen Wallin and approved.

Staff update on the new Duvall Library: Laura Boyes reported that she had no new information of the status of the Duvall Library. Quoting from the April Director's Report by director Bill Ptacek, Chair Denison read the following: "No interest was shown by co-developers in the site of the new Duvall Library. The KCLS staff met with the Duvall Library Advisory Board, the Mayor and several City Council members on March 26th. City officials were still interested in us finding a partner for the project and the Mayor volunteered to contact some area developers. Despite that we still have not received any inquiries. At that meeting staff talked about a scenario in which KCLS would develop the library at the front of the library and sell the back section for housing. This strategy would aid in covering the cost of the new building and parking. The project architects have started design work to see if there will be enough property to sell."

"So on April 5th," Denison continued, "the following letter was sent to the trustees from Mayor Ibershoff and I signed it on behalf of the board as well.----

"RE: DUVALL LIBRARY FACILITY PROPERTY

Dear Chairman McCullough and KCLS Trustees:

We would like to thank the KCLS Board of Trustees for the opportunity presented to the citizens of the east King County area and the City of Duvall. The City of Duvall and Duvall Library Advisory Board however, urge the board of trustees to further explore co-development options beyond project site. As you know, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for co-development was advertised and yielded no interest. The City of Duvall and the Duvall Library Advisory Board believes there are viable options that would result in the Library system achieving its goal of creating a new library with ample parking and fundable infrastructure. We respectfully request the opportunity to meet with the Trustees and present our options for your consideration.

Director Ptacek's presentation at the March 26th Duvall Library Board meeting left no doubt that there are serious concerns about delivering the facility promised by the public bond. However, mitigating infrastructure cost impacts via a co-development project is still a viable and real option. It is in the long-term interest of the Duvall Library to reassess the facility location given escalating costs within the current construction climate since the site selection matrix was evaluated.

We are concerned about the direction the KCLS is considering. A smaller library would not serve the interest of a rapidly growing city. The addition of a Lake Washington Technical College campus by 2012 underscores our needs, along with a current

population of approximately 6,050 and a population at least 12,000 within the next 10-15 years. We would like to present ways to balance the spiraling construction costs with multi-use development (residential, commercial and institutional) already in the works. We believe focusing efforts on collaborative planning will result in the realization of our mutual goal: the best possible library for Duvall patrons now and in the future.

Sincerely, Mayor Will Ibershoff, City of Duvall
Paige Denison, Duvall Library Board, Chair”

Approval from all board members was immediate and discussion followed reading of the letter, which included:

Alan Butler: So you’re basically saying, ‘Hey, why don’t you have it somewhere else.’

Chair Denison: Or at least consider that option.

Don Barden: And they haven’t even done environmental studies?

Chair Denison: Well I still have questions about that because you have to do a certain amount to go through buying a property. It seems to me that were some things done but I struggled with that one but kind of figure she’s (Kay Johnson) done that.’

Don Barden: What alternatives have they (the city of Duvall) been working on?

Chair Denison: They’ve been working on a number of alternatives. They’ve been working diligently on it from the evening of the last meeting. The planning director’s had lunch with developers; Mayor Ibershoff’s been speaking with Washington Holding about options on Big Rock... and so on to at least pull together some options for a presentation to show some of those alternatives and the City would give a three to five minute presentation to the KCLS Board of Trustees but we have not heard anything back from KCLS since that letter went out. I think that’s been a little surprising. I do know that the City is working diligently at looking at other alternatives because the library is really important.

Alan Butler: the current plan is just getting more and more out there...I think ‘pie in the sky’ comes to mind.

Chair Denison: It sounds to me though, like there are some real workable solutions.

Don Barden: It just depends if KCLS or Kay Johnson wants to plow ahead no matter what because the City may be able to answer some of their concerns about money and give them something solid to work with. Every time we’ve talked about it (with KCLS), they’re still floundering. And maybe the reason they didn’t respond is that they’re going to press ahead no matter what or they haven’t decided what they’re going to do because of the costs. Like a year and half ago we started to talk about underground parking and they said that was way too expensive, out of the question. And now they’re starting to talk about it.

Chair Denison: I don’t know, speaking personally and not for the whole board, that (the existing site selection) property would have been chosen had co-development been part of the matrix because you’re looking at only one way in and out, right?

Karen Wallin: The long-term use of the library and the measurements used for that where that compares whether or not we can build outside the main 203 thoroughfare—that’s what’s really going to make a difference. And I think it’s unlikely that KCLS will give up a high visibility library for a library that is in another location where the use will be down long term. It is on the highway.

Denny Redman: There certainly are successful libraries throughout the County not on the main drag.

Laura Boyes discussed the Bothell Library's slow growth to its present activity level.

Denny Redman: What still comes to mind for me is why the library can't stay where it is. I know it's not adequate for the flow of KCLS employees' work and growing needs of the community but it already has such a fine visible location. It's highly regarded by the community and could be expanded out the back for a covered parking lot and/or including the city parking shed down below.

Denny Redman also moved to make it official and for the board to support the Mayor's and Chair Denison's signed letter, which was seconded by Don Barden. The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Denison commented that although she'd talked to us individually about the letter, it should have gone before the board for approval prior to being sent out but that she and the City were trying to move expeditiously. She also said that Kay Johnson and Bill Ptacek had also contacted the City of Duvall saying they were open to other possibilities.

She has been very impressed with how hard the City has been working to come up with really creative solutions.

Don Barden also suggested we always C.C. Bill Ptacek and Kay Johnson with these kinds of letters so it doesn't look like we're going behind anyone's back and also suggested we thank the City of Duvall for its energy in helping the new library plans. He also commented to Carol Ladwig about how even-handed her River Current articles have been concerning the new library's growth struggles which met with general agreement.

Laura Boyes asked for any feedback regarding the new KCLS Insights newsletter and all board members seemed to agree that it was an excellent idea and very useful.

The motion was called for adjournment by Karen Wallin and seconded and adjourned at 7:05.